

**ILTUTMISH (PART-2)
B.A. PART-3, PAPER-V**

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ILTUTMISH (1211-1236)

Early troubles

When Iltutmish ascended the throne in 1211, he had a number of problems to face. The position of Iltutmish was challenged by Taj-ud-din Yalduz, the ruler of Ghazni, and Nasir ud-din Qubacha, governor of Sindh. The Governor of Bengal, Khalji noble, asserted his independence. Some of Amirs of Delhi were disaffected, while the Hindu chiefs were intent upon recovering their independence. In a word the situation was extremely embarrassing to the new Sultan. But Iltutmish proved himself quite equal to the situation.

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First he made the position secure in Delhi by suppressing a rebellion of the Amirs and bringing the neighboring provinces under control . He then defeated Taj-ud-din who had invaded the Punjab and took him prisoner. The ambition of Nasir-ud-din who defied, he was repulsed before Lahore. The Khalji Maliks of Bengal were reduced to submission and the Sultan's authority was enforced over Hindustan and the Punjab. His successes were crowned by the patent of investiture which he received from the reigning Caliph of Baghdad. This enhanced his prestige in the

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Muslim world and thereby served to consolidated his authority in India. The Sultan struck coins on which he described himself as the lieutenant of the Caliph.

Yalduz

Taj-ud-din Yalduz was another antagonist of Iltutmish. He considered himself to be the successor of Muhammad Ghori and was not prepared to allow the Muslim empire in India to be independent. In 1214, Yalduz came to Lahore and occupied the same. This was too much for Iltutmish. He marched against Yalduz

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and defeated him, in the battle of Tarain near Thanesar. Yalduz was made a prisoner and sent to the fortress of Badaun where he was later on put to death.

Qubacha

Iltutmish also started his invasion against Nasir-ud-din Qubacha . He ruled over Uch and Multan. After the demise of Qutub-ud-din, Qabacha had occupied a piece of the Punjab. As Qubacha refused to accept Iltutmish as overlord, Iltutmish declared war against him in 1217 and he was successful in driving him out of Punjab. As the power of Qubacha was not completely crushed, he managed to remain independent for another decade.

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In 1227, Iltutmish once again marched against him and was successful in capturing Uch without much resistance. Qubacha escaped from Uch and took Shelter in Bhakkar. When Bhakkar also was besieged by Iltutmish, Qubacha lost heart and asked for peace. He sent his son Masud to negotiate the terms but he was imprisoned. Qubacha was so much upset that he tried to escape form Bhakkar but was drowned in the river Indus. One view is that he was killed in an accident, another view is that he committed suicide. Whatever the truth, Iltutmish captured Bhakkar and appointed Wazir Muhammad Junaidi to complete the conquest of lower Sind.

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Bengal

Bengal was another problems for Iltutmish. After the death of Qutub-ud-din Aibak, Ali Mardan acknowledged himself sovereign in Bengal and took up the title of Ala-ud-din, However, he died after two years. He was succeeded by his son Hisam-ud-din Iwaz. The latter took up the title of Ghiyas-ud-din and struck coins in his name. Even the Khutba was read in his name. This was too much for Iltutmish. He sent on expedition against him in 1225 and himself followed the same. When Ghiyas-ud-din heard the approach of Iltutmish, he at once submitted and agreed to pay a huge sum as tribute. The capitulation of

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Ghiyas-ud-din was not a lasting one and after some time he once again raised the standard of rebellion. Another expedition was sent against him. Ghiyas-ud-din was defeated and killed and Bengal was completely brought under the throne of Delhi. When Nasir-ud-din, who had conquered Bengal died in 1229, the Khalji Malik revolted in Bengal under Balka. Iltutmish himself went to Bengal at the head of the army and defeated Balka and put Ala-ud-din Jani in charge of Bengal .

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The Rajputs

The problem of Rajput was another headache for Iltutmish. After the death of Aibak, the Rajputs did their best to drive away the Turks. The Chandellas revolted in Kalinjar and Ajaigarh. The Prathiharas drove away the Muslim garrisons from Gwalior. They also occupied Narwar and Jhansi. The Chauhan ruler of Ranthambhor turned out the Turkish troops and brought under his control Jodhpur. The Chauhans of Jalor conquered once again Nadol. Mandor, Bharmer, Ratnapur, Sonchar, Radhadhara, Khera, Ramsin and Bhinmal. Jaden Bhattis established their sovereignty

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in Northern Alwar, Ajmer, Bayana and Thangir. They put an end to Turkish supremacy and became independent. Iltutmish could not be expected to allow the Rajputs to remain independent for long. In 1226, he besieged Ranthambhor, captured it and re garrisoned it. Mandor, capital of the Paramara Rajputs, was also captured and re garrisoned. Next he besieged Jalor. Udaisinha its ruler, offered stiff resistance. Ultimately, he was made to surrender. However, he was allowed to continue as ruler on the condition of his payment of tribute. Bayana and Thangir were also recaptured. Ajmer was captured after resistance.

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Nagaur in jodhpur was recovered. In 1231, Gwalior was besieged. Malayavarma Deva, fought bravely but ultimately surrendered. Trilokyavarma, the ruler of Kalinjar, abandoned Kalinjar and the same was plundered. Iltutmish led the attack on Nagoda in person. However, he was defeated by Ksetra Shah, its ruler, and Iltutmish suffered heavy losses. Iltutmish tried to subdue the Chalukyas of Gujarat but was unsuccessful. In 1234-35, Iltutmish led an expedition to Malwa. He plundered Bhilsa and Ujjain. He also destroyed the temple of Mahakal of Ujjain.

(To be Continued)